

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 05625 241527Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

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P R 241420Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9258

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 497

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 5625

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SY LE

SUBJ: AUGUST 24 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTS SYRIAN DECISION TO ATTEND ARAB

SUMMIT

1. SYRIAN MEDIA REPORTED FONMIN KHADDAM'S CABLE WELCOMING HOLDING ARAB SUMMIT AND ASKING AL SECGEN TO DETERMINE PROPER TIME AND PLACE FOR GATHERING. MEDIA NOTED LEBANESE CRISIS WOULD BE PRIMARY ISSUE UNDER DISCUSSION AT SEPTEMBER 4 ARAB FONMINS SESSION IN CAIRO. PRESENT PLANS CALLED FOR REPORT BY RIAD TO FONMINS OUTLINING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON AND AL EFFORTS TO RESOLVE CRISIS. PRESS ALSO REFERRED TO JORDAN'S APPROVAL OF SUMMIT.

2. PRESS OBSERVED THAT AMIDST PREPARATIONS FOR SUMMIT, VIOLENT CLASHES CONTINUED PREVIOUS DAY IN LEBANON ON UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 05625 241527Z

ALL TRADITIONAL FRONTS. CASUALTY FIGURES YESTERDAY

AMOUNTED TO 61 KILLED AND 127 WOUNDED, ACCORDING TO NEWS AGENCY DISPATCHES.

3. PRESS REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT FRANGIE RECEIVED TWO AMERICAN ENVOYS AT KFOUR WITH CHAMOUN IN ATTENDANCE. PRESS ADDED THAT "PRES-ELECT SARKIS, WHOSE TERM OF OFFICE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 23, RECEIVED STATE DEPARTMENT ENVOYS AUGUST 22."

4. TISHRIIN REPORTED ARRIVAL OF AL MEDIATOR DR KHOULI IN DAMASCUS FROM CAIRO. KHOULI SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH KHADDAM THIS MORNING BEFORE PROCEEDING ON TO BEIRUT.

5. PRESS CAPTIONED SUMMARY OF KUWAITI RAI AL-AMM ARTICLE: "SYRIA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON MEANS PROCLAMATION OF PARTITION."

6. PRESS DENOUNCED GOE UNDER CAPTION: "SADAT PRESS ATTACKS PEOPLE OF EGYPT AND DESCRIBES EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION AS TREASON, WHILE RABIN LAUDS EGYPTIAN REGIME'S COMMITMENT TO SINAI AGREEMENT." ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, "WHAT IS GOING ON IN EGYPT THESE DAYS IS BEGINNING OF THE END (FOR SADAT)."

7. TISHRIIN EDITORIAL STRUCK POSITIVE NOTE ON CHANCES FOR SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON: "WITH ARRIVAL OF DR KHOULI TO DAMASCUS EN ROUTE TO BEIRUT, LEBANESE CRISIS ENTERS NEW STAGE LEADING TO POSITIVE RESULTS FOR ENDING BLOODY FIGHTING." HE ADDED THAT KHOULI HAD MET WITH AL REPS IN CAIRO, AND COLOMBO CONFERENCE AS WELL PROVIDED CHANCE FOR INTENSIFIED CONTACTS AMONG ARAB LEADERS TO SETTLE CRISIS. TISHRIIN HOPED FOR SERIOUS WORK AT SUMMIT RATHER THAN MEETING "CONFINED TO FORMALITIES WITHOUT EVER REACHING SUBSTANCE." AL-THAWRAH WRITER ASSERTED THAT SYRIAN ACCEPTANCE OF SUMMIT PROPOSALS AFFIRMED SYRIAN DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT ARAB ACTION "TO END LEBANESE CRISIS AND SETTLE CRISIS OF ARAB SOLIDARITY UNDERMINED BY SINAI ACCORD." TISHRIIN DENOUNCED CAIRO'S "CONSPIRACY" AGAINST UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 DAMASC 05625 241527Z

PALESTINIANS AND ONGOING ATTEMPTS TO FOIL SYRIAN INITIATIVES IN LEBANON. TISHRIIN CHARGED THAT "SADAT REGIME NOT ONLY TURNED LATEST RIYADH MEETING TO INK ON PAPER, BUT HAS EXERTED EVERY EFFORT TO IMPEDE ARAB SUMMIT." AL-BAATH COLUMNIST CRITICIZED JUMBLATT AND SUGGESTED PLO SHOULD END THEIR SUPPORT FOR HIM BECUASE HE DETERMINED TO EXTERMINATE PALESTINIANS IN OBEDIENCE TO US AND ISRAELI WISHES.

MURPHY

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